



## SPRING 2015

February had a cold bite, and March wanted to act like winter more than spring. But it finally seems spring is here for real!

Before the big rains, dry weather had given many the chance to get out and start cleaning up after the long winter. Craftmaster Land Design has seized the opportunity to do just that. Dormant pruning is now complete, and spring clean-up, turf repair, and bed edging are in full swing! Whether you have maintenance needs or just have some landscaping questions, it is never too late to contact us!



## SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!

Well, seems like spring has finally decided to show up, and we have had the pleasure of truly feeling the warmth of the sun on our skin...so nice! I often think we wouldn't really appreciate spring without the extremes of winter, so enjoy this transforming season and take some time to stop and notice the beautiful changes happening everywhere!

Along with all that new life and regeneration is the realization that it is time to get to work! Mowers should be ready to go, the snowplows have been removed from the trucks, and crews are eagerly ready to get back to work.

## WHAT SHOULD BE HAPPENING NOW?

- Rake and clean up winter debris as weather permits
- Survey property for winter damage & plant replacement needs
- Reseed bare spots, establish new lawns
- Apply a pre-emergent crabgrass herbicide to established turf
- After grass is actively growing, core aerate if thatch is over 1" thick
- Around Memorial Day, fertilize using a slow-release formulation

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*Consider Craftmaster Land Design for maintaining your landscape. We will develop a customized, horticulturally-based, cost-effective program to meet your specific needs and budget.*

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## ALL ABOUT THE TURF, 'BOUT THE TURF...NO TROUBLE!

Roll up your sleeves, it is time to get to work on the lawn! Many concerns should be addressed as the grass greens up and the need to mow is fast approaching. Are you looking at lawn establishment or renovation? What are the needs of your lawn: high traffic; recreation; great looks? Consider testing your soil to evaluate any changes necessary for a healthy lawn. If seeding a lawn, carefully select the correct turfgrass species for your location. If sod is the choice, take the time to prepare the planting surface prior to laying it.

## BEST LAWN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



### ❖ MOWING

- Apply the 1/3 Rule-
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf height with each mowing
- Cut height should be 2.5-3.5 inches
- Keep mower blades sharp so turf heals faster
- Vary direction and pattern of mowing each time
- Let clippings fall into the lawn (in a season, this is equivalent to one fertilization application)

### ❖ FERTILIZATION

- Have your soil tested to assess your fertilization needs
- Use the Holiday Schedule (Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day)
- Most turf requires a higher % nitrogen fertilizer and very little phosphorous or potassium
- Use a 30-50% nitrogen slow-release fertilizer
- Mature, consistently fertilized lawns or shady turf require less nitrogen fertilizer

### ❖ IRRIGATION

- Most lawns need about one inch of water each week (rainfall or irrigation)
- Check the output of your sprinklers
- Keep newly seeded areas moist until established
- Early morning is the best time to water
- In drought conditions, consider allowing turf to go into summer dormancy



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## WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Through this seasonal newsletter, Craftmaster Land Design will update you on topics that are of concern for maintaining your property. We welcome your questions at any time. We are available for consultation, and providing a quote for services or just answering your landscaping and maintenance questions.

### Contact Us

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